



# World War Two



## 1939

- Hitler invades Poland on 1 September. Britain and France declare war on Germany two days later.



## 1940

- Rationing starts in the UK.
- German 'Blitzkrieg' overwhelms Belgium, Holland and France.
- Churchill becomes Prime Minister of Britain.
- British Expeditionary Force evacuated from Dunkirk.
- British victory in Battle of Britain forces Hitler to postpone invasion plans.



## 1941

- Hitler begins Operation Barbarossa - the invasion of Russia.
- The Blitz continues against Britain's major cities.
- Allies take Tobruk in North Africa, and resist German attacks.
- Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, and the US enters the war.



## 1942

- Germany suffers setbacks at Stalingrad and El Alamein.
- Singapore falls to the Japanese in February - around 25,000 prisoners taken.
- American naval victory at Battle of Midway, in June, marks turning point in Pacific War.
- Mass murder of Jewish people at Auschwitz begins.



## 1943

- Surrender at Stalingrad marks Germany's first major defeat.
- Allied victory in North Africa enables invasion of Italy to be launched.
- Italy surrenders, but Germany takes over the battle.
- British and Indian forces fight Japanese in Burma.



## 1944

- Allies land at Anzio and bomb monastery at Monte Cassino.
- Soviet offensive gathers pace in Eastern Europe.
- D Day: The Allied invasion of France. Paris is liberated in August.
- Guam liberated by the US. Okinawa, and Iwo Jima bombed.



## 1945

- Auschwitz liberated by Soviet troops.
- Russians reach Berlin: Hitler commits suicide and Germany surrenders on 7 May.
- Truman becomes President of the US on Roosevelt's death, and Attlee replaces Churchill.
- After atomic bombs are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan surrenders on 14 August.

